



Sully Spotlight

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Celebrate With Safety in Mind



July 2007

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A Fairfax County, Va., publication

Events of Interest for the Month

***Wed. July 4—
Independence Day**

**Have a Safe and
Happy July 4th!**

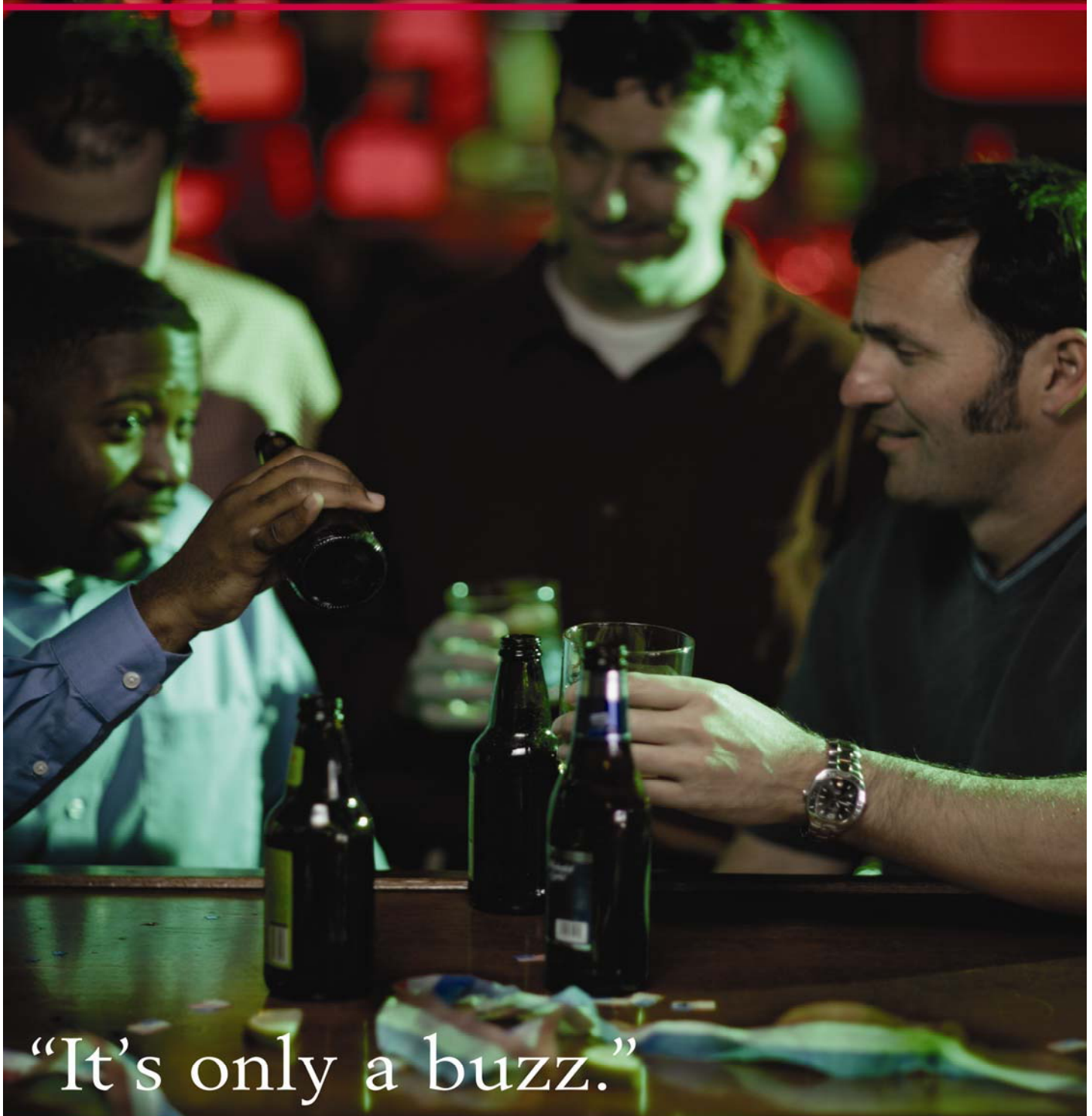


The 4th of July is a fun-filled holiday with cookouts, parties and firework displays. Unfortunately, every year injuries occur from fireworks. In Virginia, the law is specific on what is legal and illegal in fireworks. "Illegal fireworks include any combustible or explosive composition, and any substance and combination of substances and articles prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation. These include any firecracker, torpedo, skyrocket, roman candle or other substance or thing of whatever form or construction, that contains any explosion or inflammable compound or substance which explodes, rises into the air or travels laterally, or fires projectiles into the air, other than sparks. Fireworks do not include items such as sparklers, fountains, Pharaoh's Serpents, caps for pistols, or pinwheels when used, ignited or exploded on private property with the consent of the owner of the property." (Virginia State Fire Code, Section F-3101.1) Any fireworks that explode or that emit flame or sparks to a distance greater than 12 feet or perform as a projectile or have a quick match fuse are also prohibited.

One of the most common injuries around the 4th of July is to the eye. About two-thirds of fireworks-related eye injuries result from bottle rockets. These small devices consist of a firework attached to the end of a thin stick approximately one foot long. Participants insert the rocket into the bottle acting as a base and then light the fuse. After ignition, the bottle rocket launches from the bottle into the air with little or no control from the participant.

According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, about 50 percent of persons injured from fireworks are children ages 14 and younger. Males represent 75 percent of all injuries. Sparklers are associated with the most injuries for children under five years old.

If you or your family choose to use approved fireworks, *please ensure safety is the number one priority*. Ensure children are supervised closely at all times .



“It’s only a buzz.”

Never underestimate “just a few.”

buzzed
driving is
drunk
driving
designate a sober driver

Don't let July 4th blow-up in your face.

Kids Can't Fly!

Window Safety Alert! Be Safe—Not Sorry!

It only takes a few seconds for tragedy to occur.

What About Your Windows?

- ☞ Falls onto concrete and other hard surfaces cause the most severe injuries and deaths.
- ☞ An open window may put a child at serious risk. All openings as little as four inches may be large enough for a toddler to fall through.
- ☞ Little ones are curious about the world around them. Leaving toys and other interesting items on window sills encourages dangerous exploration.
- ☞ Leaving furniture near a window is an invitation to climb.
- ☞ Screens are designed to keep insects out but will not keep children in. Pressure of one pound or less may cause a screen to pop out.



What Can Be Done?

- ☞ Keep children away from open windows, especially windows close to the floor. If you must open a window, open from the top.
- ☞ Consider installing window guards or window stop devices. Be sure to educate older children and adults on how to release window guards in the event of a fire or other emergency that requires evacuation.
- ☞ When landscaping, install grass, mulch and shrubs beneath a window. These can cushion a child's fall.
- ☞ Keep furniture, beds, toy chests, etc. away from windows.



Make Your Windows No-Fall Zones

For additional information:




- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| ☞ Fairfax County SAFE KIDS Coalition | 703-698-2260 |
| ☞ Northern Virginia EMS Council | 703-425-0080 |
| ☞ Inova HealthSource | 703-204-3366 |
| ☞ Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children | 703-204-6777 |
| ☞ Inova Regional Trauma Center | 703-698-2274 |




Information from <http://www.nvipc.org/Educational/kidscantfly.html>

VIRGINIA'S CHILD RESTRAINT DEVICE LAW (Code of Virginia Article 13 - Section 46.2)

**New Law
Requirements**

-  **Effective July 1, 2007:** Child restraint devices are required for children through the **age of seven (until 8th birthday)**. Safety seats must be properly used and approved by Department of Transportation standards. (*Booster seats are required through 8th birthday, no weight or height requirement as law used to state.*)
 -  **Effective July 1, 2007:** Rear-facing child restraint devices must be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. In the event the vehicle does not have a back seat, the child restraint device may be placed in the front passenger seat only if the vehicle is either not equipped with a passenger side airbag or the passenger side airbag has been deactivated.
 -  **Effective July 1, 2007:** Children can no longer ride unrestrained in the rear cargo area of vehicles.
 - The law applies to anyone (i.e. parents, grandparents, babysitters, friends) who provides transportation for a child in any vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968. Public transportation (taxis, buses), regulation school buses, and farm vehicles are exempted.
 - The child restraint law is primary enforcement -- no other violation need be committed prior to ticketing for failure to have a child in an approved seat.
 - A \$50 civil penalty fine is imposed for failure to have a child in a child restraint device. A \$20 civil penalty fine is assessed when persons transporting a child exempted from this law due to medical reasons do not carry a written statement of the exemption. All fines collected go into a special fund to purchase safety seats for low-income families.
- There are assistance programs for low-income residents who cannot afford a safety seat. Contact Virginia Department of Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention at 1-800-732-8333 for more information.

VIRGINIA'S PASSENGER SAFETY BELT LAW (Code of Virginia Article 12 - Section 46-2)

-  **Effective July 1, 2007:** Children **age 8 through age 15 (until age 16)** must be belted correctly in vehicle safety belts, in vehicles manufactured after January 1, 1968. Exemptions are taxicabs, school buses, executive sedans and limousines.
- This safety belt law is primary enforcement -- no other violation need be committed prior to ticketing for failure to have a child correctly buckled up.
A \$50 civil penalty fine will be imposed. All fines collected go into a special fund to purchase safety seats for low-income families.

VIRGINIA'S PICKUP TRUCK LAW (Code of Virginia Section 46.2 - 1094)

- No person under age 16 shall be transported in the rear cargo area of a pickup truck. There are exemptions for certain parades and farming operations.

Sully District Station Child Seat Inspections

Is your child seat installed properly? Is it the correct seat for the child's age and weight? Did you know that your Sully District Station offers free child seat inspections by certified technicians?

Next available dates: Tuesday, July 3 , 2007 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 12 , 2007 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, July 17, 2007 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 26, 2007 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, July 31, 2007 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.



No appointment is necessary. Our technicians request that you make an effort to install your child safety seats yourself, so that they may properly inspect and make adjustments, as necessary. For additional child seat inspection times, you may call the Fairfax County Operations Support Bureau at 703-280-0559.

National Night Out - Tuesday August 7



Plan a community event to show your support
for the fight against crime!

Pool Parties

Porch lights turned on

Cook-outs

Block Parties

Ice cream socials



To register your Sully District community event, email PFC Mary Hulse at Mary.Hulse@fairfaxcounty.gov. Officers will be visiting registered community events throughout the evening. For more information or ideas on National Night Out, visit <http://www.nationalnightout.org/nno>. Join communities around the nation in this night of support!

Sully District Police Station
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard
Chantilly, VA 20151

Main Phone 703-814-7000
Fax 703-814-7013

File a Report on Line
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/homepage.htm

Virginia Amber Alert
<http://www.vaamberalert.com>

**Aggressive Driving—
Report Online at**
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/traf_sfty_report.htm



PHONE NUMBERS

**Fairfax County Crime
Solvers :**
1-866-411-TIPS

**Fairfax County Police
Non-Emergency:**
703-691-2131

**Sully District Crime
Prevention Office:**
703-814-7018

**Child Car Seat
Installation:**
Sully District Station
703-814-7000 x 5140

SAFE (Self Defense Class)
703-246-7806

**Citizen Reporting System
(to file reports only)**
703-464-4756

Think Safety!

Closing Your Garage Door Protects You!

Leaving your garage door open is a right as a homeowner. However, an open garage door opens you and your home to criminal activity. Many larcenies from open garages occur without the homeowner's knowledge. If the theft from an attached garage occurs after dark, the law states that it is a burglary. Many residents have recently notified the police of neighbors having open garages at night. Although this is not a crime, officers have responded and tried to educate the homeowners on the risks associated with leaving their garage open. These calls for service often prevent officers from engaging in other enforcement efforts in the district.

Many garages allow access into the main house. The door leading from the garage into the main house is in most cases an interior door. Interior doors are hollow core which are easily broken through. Allowing access to this door gives criminals easy access to the home at night, endangering the occupants of the house and creating a dangerous response for police officers.

Education is a valuable tool. If you know residents who often leave their garage doors open, please inform them of the risks with open garage doors. Taking an extra few seconds to secure the garage only helps prevent victimization of the homeowners and prevents many hours of investigation by the police department.

Light Up Your Neighborhood!

Residents are encouraged to turn on their exterior lights at night to aid in the deterrence of crime. Criminals are looking for the dark streets and parking lots to break into cars, commit robberies or other crimes. If every homeowner turned on their exterior lights at night, your neighborhood could be safer. You would be amazed at the difference in your neighborhood if everyone participated. Energy saving fluorescent bulbs cost only pennies a year to burn. Placing your lights on timers or using photo cell sensors to come on at dusk and turn off at dawn will help in the cost even more. So join in with your neighbors and **LIGHT UP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!**



Newsletter compiled by PFC Mary Hulse